

**WHAT IS CLAIMED:**

1. A method for interactively validating and entering orders for products over a computer network, said method comprising:
  - (a) providing a web order management computer system, a remote buyer's computer system, and a communications link therebetween;
  - (b) displaying at said remote buyer's computer system, under control of said web order management computer system, an order pad screen that displays at least one of: (i) all products available for purchase by a buyer using said remote buyer's computer system, and (ii) only a pre-selected customer specific subset of the products that are available for purchase by a buyer using said remote buyer's computer system, wherein said subset of the products is pre-selected by said buyer;
  - (c) said buyer interactively entering ordering information at predetermined locations on said order pad screen until, under control of said web order management computer system, a quality order is validated in substantially real time; and
  - (d) said buyer submitting said validated quality order to said web order management system, by selecting at least one predetermined command.
2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising: when said buyer enters a quantity as part of the step of placing said quality order, said web order management system provides the buyer with an "easy typing" feature that automatically converts a number of pallets or layers of products into a number of cases of the same products.
3. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising: when said buyer enters a quantity as part of the step of placing said quality order, said web order management system automatically determines a "pack level" for each individual product that is available for purchase using said web order management system.
4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said pre-selected customer specific subset of the products that are available for purchase by a buyer comprises a group of products that are related to one another by at least one common characteristic.

5. A customer specific method for interactively validating and entering orders for products over a computer network, said method comprising:
  - (a) providing a web order management system, a first remote buyer's computer system, a communications link therebetween, second remote buyer's computer system, and a communications link between said web order management system and said second remote buyer's computer system;
  - (b) displaying at said first remote buyer's computer system, under control of said web order management computer system, a first product catalog screen in which only a first set of pre-determined products is displayed for said first buyer to select from, wherein said first set of pre-determined products is a first subset of all products sold by way of said web order management system, and wherein said first set of pre-determined products is selected by an administrator of said web order management system; and
  - (c) displaying at said second remote buyer's computer system, under control of said web order management computer system, a second product catalog screen in which only a second set of pre-determined products is displayed for said second buyer to select from, wherein said second set of pre-determined products is a second, different subset of all products sold by way of said web order management computer system, and wherein said second set of pre-determined products is selected by an administrator of said web order management system.
6. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein said first set of pre-determined products represents all products that can be purchased by said first buyer when using said web order management computer system, and wherein said second set of pre-determined products represents all products that can be purchased by said second buyer when using said web order management system.
7. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein said first set of pre-determined products represents a subset of all products that can be purchased by said first buyer when using said web order management computer system, and wherein said second set of pre-determined products represents a subset of all products that can be purchased by said second buyer when using said web order management system.

8. The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising: displaying on at least one additional remote buyer's computer system, under control of said web order management computer system, at least one additional product catalog screen in which only at least one additional set of pre-determined products is displayed for said at least one additional remote buyer to select from, wherein said at least one additional set of pre-determined products is an additional, different subset of all products sold by way of said web order management computer system, and wherein said at least one additional set of pre-determined products is selected by an administrator of said web order management system.
9. A method for validating and entering orders for products over a computer network, said method comprising:
  - (a) providing a web order management computer system, a remote buyer's computer system, and a communications link therebetween;
  - (b) displaying at said remote buyer's computer system, under control of said web order management system, an order pad screen which displays a plurality of products that are available for purchase by a buyer using said remote buyer's computer system;
  - (c) said buyer entering ordering information at predetermined locations on said order pad screen and either: (i) completing a first procedure that finishes a first order, or (ii) not completing said first procedure and instead commencing a second procedure to enter ordering information for a second order on said order pad screen; and continuing to enter ordering information for said first order or said second order under control of said web order management system, until receiving a message from said web order management system that a quality order had been achieved for one of said first and second orders; and
  - (d) said buyer submitting said quality order to said web order management system, by selecting at least one predetermined command.
10. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein after said second order is commenced, said buyer completes said second procedure and finishes said second order before going back to said first, incomplete order to complete the first procedure and finish the first order.

11. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein after said second order is commenced, said buyer does not complete a second procedure and finish said second order at that time, and instead goes back to the first, incomplete order to complete the first procedure and finish the first order; and later said buyer goes back to said second, incomplete order to complete the second procedure and finish the second order.
12. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the step of entering ordering information at predetermined locations on the order pad screen comprises: entering quantities into quantity input fields of the order pad screen.
13. The method as recited in claim 9, further comprising: commencing at least one additional order before finishing either of said first order or said second order.
14. A method for interactively validating and entering orders for products over a computer network, said method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) providing a web order management computer system, said web order management computer system being capable of being connected to a remote buyer's computer system;
  - (b) causing an order pad screen to be displayed at said remote buyer's computer system under control of said web order management computer system, said order pad screen displaying at least one of the group consisting of: (i) all products available for purchase using said remote buyer's computer system, and (ii) only a pre-selected customer specific subset of the products that are available for purchase using said remote buyer's computer system, wherein said subset of the products is pre-selected by said buyer;
  - (c) receiving ordering information from said buyer's computer system, wherein said ordering information is entered at predetermined locations on said order pad screen;
  - (d) interactively evaluating said ordering information to determine if such information represents a quality order and providing to said buyer's computer system information pertaining to the quality order status of said ordering information such that updated ordering information may be repetitively received and evaluated in substantially real time until a quality order is received and validated; and

- (e) receiving from said buyer's system computer a validated quality though the selection of at least one predetermined command.
15. A customer specific method for interactively validating and entering orders for products over a computer network, said method comprising:
- (a) providing a web order management computer system, said web order management computer system being capable of being connected to at least a first remote buyer's computer system and a second remote buyer's computer system;
  - (b) causing a first product catalog screen to be displayed at said first remote buyer's computer system under control of said web order management computer system, in which only a first set of pre-determined products is displayed, wherein said first set of pre-determined products is a first subset of all products sold by way of said web order management system, and wherein said first set of pre-determined products is selected by an administrator of said web order management system; and
  - (c) causing a second product catalog screen to be displayed at said second remote buyer's computer system under control of said web order management computer system, in which only a second set of pre-determined products is displayed, wherein said second set of pre-determined products is a second subset of all products sold by way of said web order management system, wherein said second set of pre-determined products is selected by an administrator of said web order management system, and wherein said first subset of all products sold by way of said web order management system is different from said second subset of all products sold by way of said web order management system.
16. A method for ordering products over a computer network, said method comprising:
- (a) viewing an order pad screen displayed on a buyer computer system, wherein said order pad screen is under control of a web order management system, said web order management system being remote from buyer computer system, wherein said order pad screen displays a plurality of products that are available for purchase;
  - (c) entering ordering information at predetermined locations on said order pad screen and either: (i) completing a first procedure that finishes a first order, or (ii) not completing said first procedure and instead commencing a second

procedure to enter ordering information for a second order on said order pad screen; and continuing to enter ordering information for said first order or said second order under control of said web order management system, until receiving a message from said web order management system that a quality order had been achieved for one of said first and second orders; and

- (d) submitting said quality order to said web order management system, by selecting at least one predetermined command.

17. A web order management system for interactively validating and entering orders for products over a computer network, said system comprising:

- (a) a host computer system, host computer system being capable of being connected to a remote buyer's computer system;
- (b) a set of machine reading program instructions which cause an order pad screen to be displayed at said remote buyer's computer system under control of said web host computer system, wherein said order pad screen displays at least one of the group consisting of: (i) all products available for purchase using said remote buyer's computer system, and (ii) only a pre-selected customer specific subset of the products that are available for purchase using said remote buyer's computer system, wherein said subset of the products is pre-selected by said buyer;
- (e) machine readable instructions which allow for ordering information to be received from said buyer's computer system by said host computer system;
- (f) machine readable instructions which cause said host computer system to evaluating said ordering information to determine if such information represents a quality order and which transmit to said buyer's computer system information pertaining to the quality order status of said ordering information such that a user of said buyer's computer system may enter updated ordering information which information may be repetitively received and evaluated in substantially real time until a quality order is received and validated.